

PRESS RELEASE

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Image Attached: WYFF board member Nick Wingate, Weston.

Westport Youth Film Festival Announces Call for Entries

The Westport Youth Film Festival announces a call for entries for high school filmmakers for its 2012 Festival, to be held on Saturday, June 2 at The Bijou Theatre in Bridgeport, CT. Entries are due by Saturday, March 10.

The Festival seeks films that fall into any one of the following categories: Comedy, Drama, Documentary, Experimental, Music Video, and Animation. In addition, all films produced in Connecticut will be automatically entered into a special "Connecticut" category. The films' directors must be high school-aged or younger at the completion of filming (ages 13-19). Local, national, and international directors are encouraged to apply.

The WYFF Youth Board will be screening all submissions; those selected to appear in the Festival will be judged in their category by an industry professional. The winners in each category will receive an award as well as a \$250 cash prize (courtesy of the Broadcast Film Critics Association). All entries will be considered for a "Social Action" award, for which the winner will receive an award and a \$500 cash prize.

"Students who have had their films showcased at WYFF have gone on to some of the country's most prestigious film schools and have pursued successful careers in the film industry," said Ms. Evan Neidich, program director of the Festival.

To apply online, visit www.INDEE.tv. Scroll down and click the green "Submit Your Film" button and select Westport Youth Film Festival for rules and directions for submission.

Early deadline is Wednesday, February 15, at a fee of \$10 per entry; regular deadline is Tuesday, February 28, at a fee of \$15; final deadline is Saturday, March 10, at a fee of \$25 per entry.

For those in need of financial aid, scholarships are readily available for filmmakers submitting one or more films. To apply for a scholarship, send a formal written request to evan@westportartscenter.org.

WYFF, a program of the Westport Arts Center, is the only film festival in the world produced by teens showing films made by teens. Every year, WYFF showcases high school student films in a professional setting, and provides filmmakers through panel discussions, professional development opportunities, and filmmaker round tables. Since its inception in 2003, WYFF has showcased over 600 high school student

films at the Festival, and has received over 200 submissions from around the world, including China, Indonesia, India, Switzerland, and Israel.

For more information, please visit www.wyff.net or contact the WYFF program Director, Evan Neidich, by phone at [203-222-7070](tel:203-222-7070) or by email at evan@westportartscenter.org

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